ALL NEW
E-MAN
CHARLTON COMICS
25¢
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
NO. 3
JUNE
00028
74/CDC
UK
6p
THE BATTERY IS DRAINING MY POWER!
STATON
the ENERGY CRISIS!
00028

MOTHER EARTH COULD NO LONGER *FEED* HER WAYWARD CHILD. THE DELINQUENT JUVENILE HAD NEARLY DRAINED ITS MOTHER *DRY*... BUT WISDOM AND SELF-SACRIFICE COULD STILL *SAVE* THEM *BOTH*... *IF* MANKIND REACTED TO THE CRISIS WITH MATURITY IF *NOT*... THE ONLY WAY LEFT WAS THE DEPRAVITY OF THE *NEW* DARK AGES.

the ENERGY CRISIS!

E-MAN

BROADWAY! FORMERLY KNOWN AS "THE GREAT WHITE WAY" IS NOW MERELY "THE BROWN WAY."

E-MAN JR. LOSES

BIG ALLIS IS DEAD! CHARLES LUCE IN HIDING

AND IN THE DRESSING ROOM OF THE GALA THEATER...

HEY, NOVA, DID YA WATCH MY ACT?

I'M SORRY, ROGIE, BUT I'VE GOT TWO *EXAMS* TOMORROW AND I'VE STILL GOT ANOTHER CHAPTER TO GO.

I'M EITHER *READ OR DEAD*. I'LL CATCH IT NEXT TIME.

NO MATTER. WITH HARDLY ANY LIGHTS I DOUBT IF ANYONE COULD SEE ME. I'D DIP MYSELF IN LUMINOUS PAINT...

D-6054

E-MAN

1

EDITOR-GEORGE WILDMAN/SCRIPT-NICOLA CUTI/ART-JOE STATON

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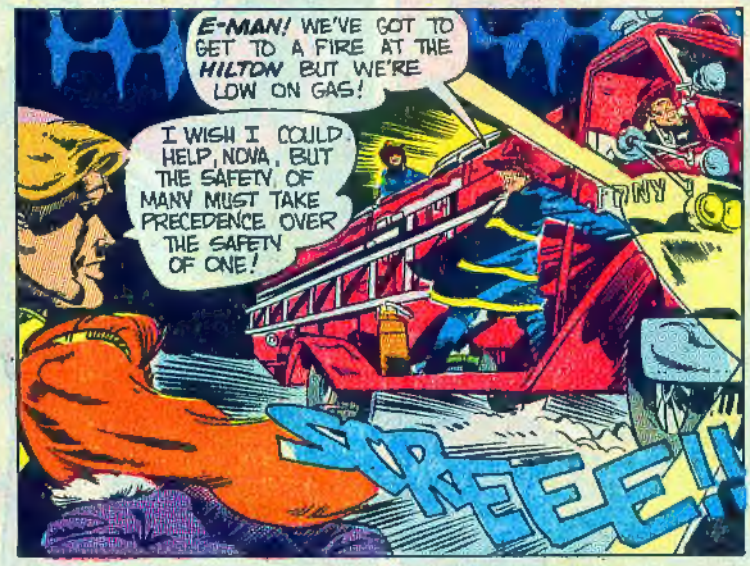
...IF I WASN'T AFRAID OF BECOMING THE TARGET OF EVERY SEWER RAT LOOSE ON THOSE DARK STREETS.
LOOK, HONEY, WHY DON'T YOU WALK WITH ME TO THE HOSPITAL. MY BOY FRIEND WILL MAKE SURE WE BOTH GET HOME.
GEE, IS YOUR BOY FRIEND A DOCTOR?
NOOOO... HE'S MORE LIKE A LIGHT BULB.
NO
ASK A SILLY QUESTION...
YOU KNOW THE ONE GOOD THING ABOUT THIS ENERGY SHORTAGE IS THAT IT MAKES THE NICE PEOPLE NICER...
CLEVELAND EATEN BY FROGS!!
...AND THE LOUSES LOUSIER!
QUIET!
GIVE ME YOUR MONEY!!!
THUNK
OWW!
RUN, ROSIE! GET THE POLICE!!
YYIIEE
ROSIE! WHAT'S HAPPENED NOW!?
2

NOVA! HELP ME! SOMETHING'S PULLLLLLL....
OMILORD!!!
ROGUE!
...FINISHED!
HOSPITALS WERE ONE OF THE FEW BUILDINGS WHICH HAD CLOSE TO NORMAL POWER. IT WAS IRONIC THAT MOST OF THEIR PATIENTS WERE VICTIMS OF THE POWER SHORTAGE.
THANKS, E-MAN. WITHOUT THAT EXTRA POWER BOOST WE WOULDN'T HAVE HAD ENOUGH LIGHT TO OPERATE!
GLAD I COULD HELP, DOCTOR I... EXCUSE ME A FRIEND'S TRYING TO GET MY ATTENTION.
TAP! TAP!
3

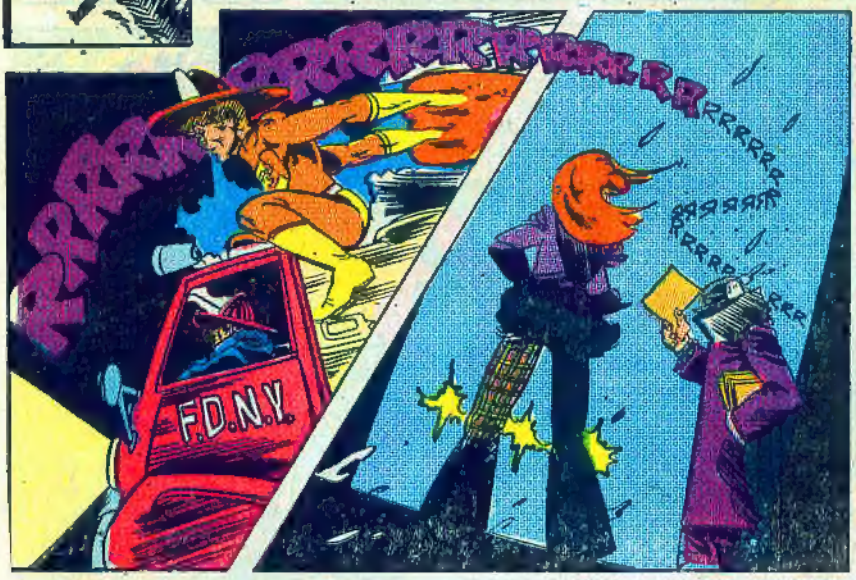
THE ENERGY CREATURE FROM THE STARS, E-MAN, HAD KEPT THE CITY GOING THROUGH HUNDREDS OF EMERGENCIES... BUT THERE WERE THOUSANDS MORE TO COME.
E-MAN! ROSIE RHEDD WAS KIDNAPPED THROUGH A BRICK WALL!!
IS THAT A RIDDLE OR A SONG TITLE?
HOSPITAL EMERGENCY
ENTRANCE

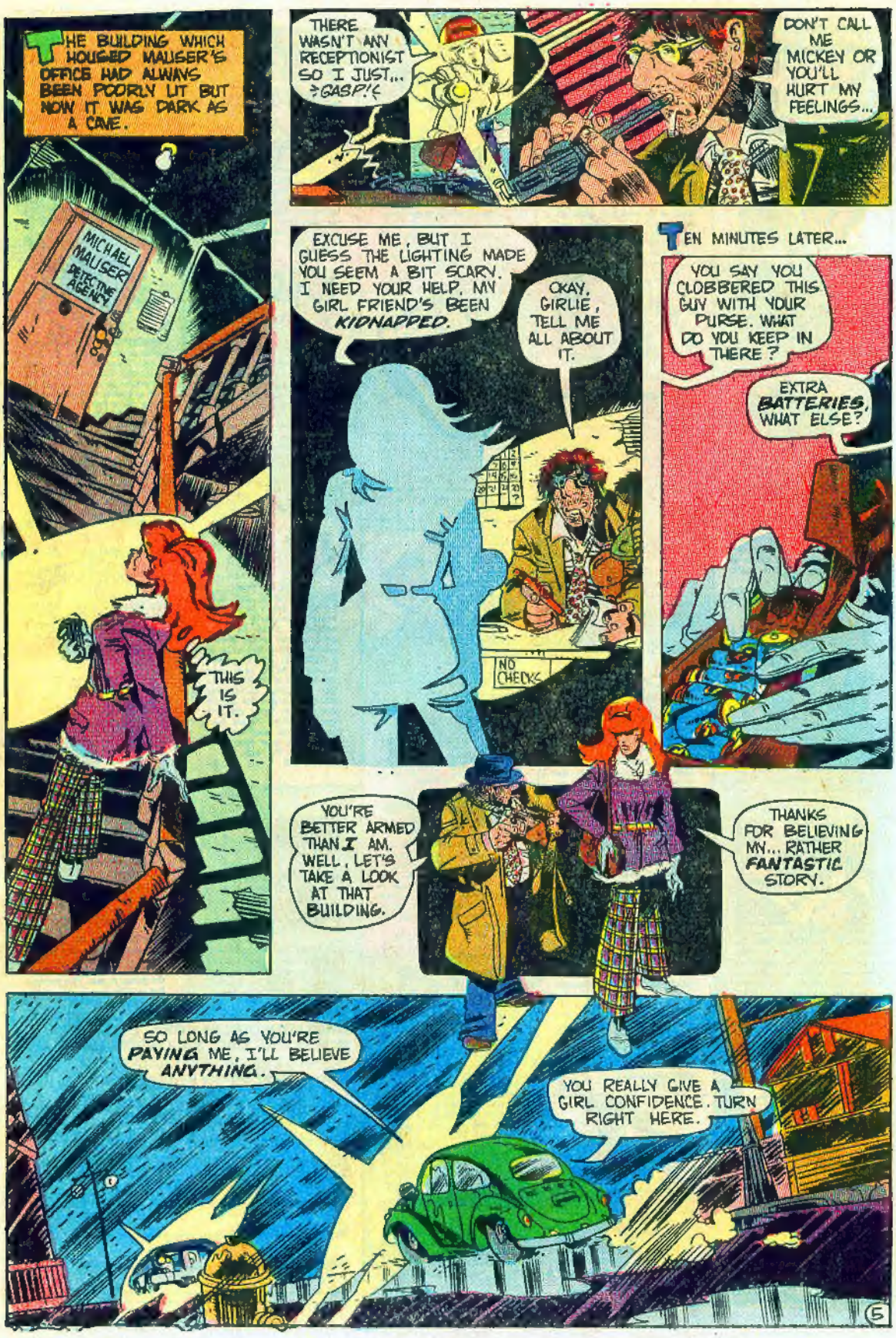
I'M NOT JOKING! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP HER!
I CAN'T, NOVA. MAYOR BEAME HAS PUT ME ON 24 HOUR ALERT. HAVE YOU CALLED THE POLICE?

YEAH, I TOLD THEM ABOUT ROSIE AND THEY WANTED TO KNOW IF IT WAS A MOVIE TITLE OR A TV. COMMERCIAL.

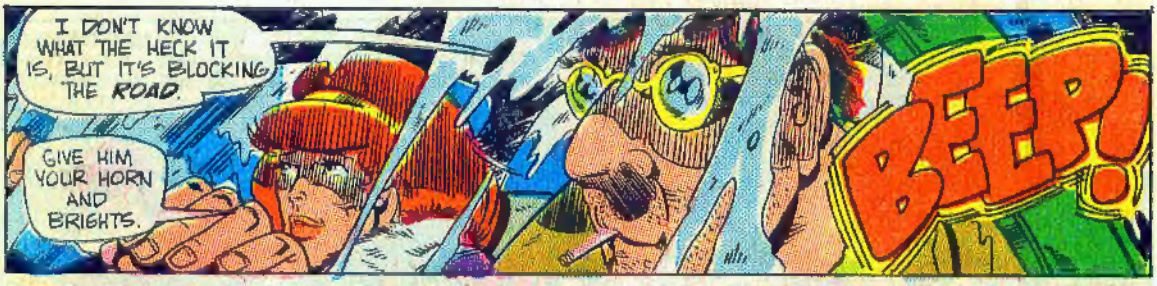

E-MAN! WE'VE GOT TO GET TO A FIRE AT THE HILTON BUT WE'RE LOW ON GAS!
I WISH I COULD HELP, NOVA, BUT THE SAFETY OF MANY MUST TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE SAFETY OF ONE!
FDNY
SKREEE!!

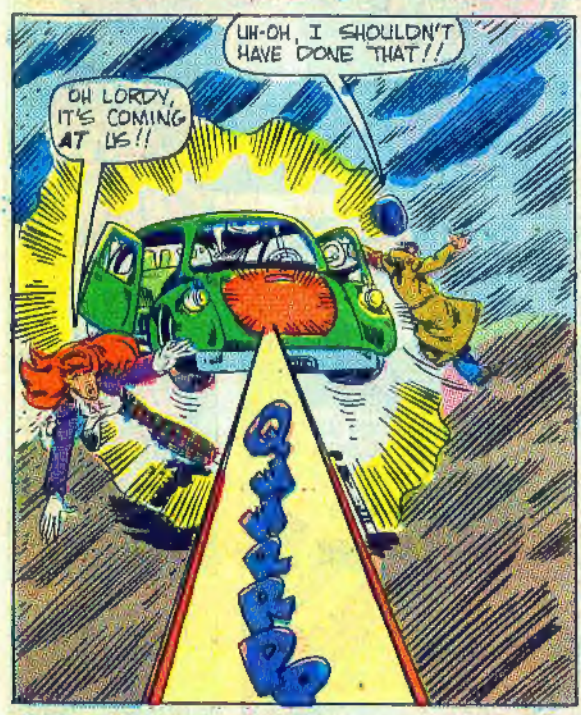
I UNDERSTAND...


RRRR


THE BUILDING WHICH HOUSED MAUSER'S OFFICE HAD ALWAYS BEEN POORLY LIT BUT NOW IT WAS DARK AS A CAVE.
MICHAEL MAUSER DETECTIVE AGENCY
THIS IS IT.
THERE WASN'T ANY RECEPTIONIST SO I JUST... >GASP!<
DON'T CALL ME MICKEY OR YOU'LL HURT MY FEELINGS...
EXCUSE ME, BUT I GUESS THE LIGHTING MADE YOU SEEM A BIT SCARY. I NEED YOUR HELP. MY GIRL FRIEND'S BEEN KIDNAPPED.
OKAY, GIRLIE, TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT.
NO CHECKS
TEN MINUTES LATER...
YOU SAY YOU CLOBBERED THIS GUY WITH YOUR PURSE. WHAT DO YOU KEEP IN THERE?
EXTRA BATTERIES, WHAT ELSE?
YOU'RE BETTER ARMED THAN I AM. WELL, LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THAT BUILDING.
THANKS FOR BELIEVING MY... RATHER FANTASTIC STORY.
SO LONG AS YOU'RE PAYING ME, I'LL BELIEVE ANYTHING.
YOU REALLY GIVE A GIRL CONFIDENCE. TURN RIGHT HERE.
6

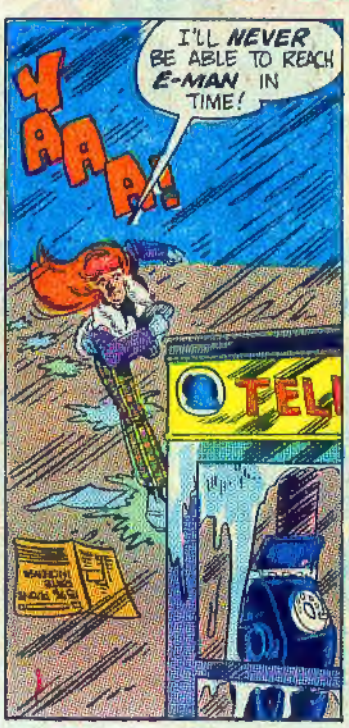
THIS IS AN OLD WAREHOUSE, MISS KANE. ARE YOU CERTAIN WHATEVER-IT-WAS PULLED YOUR GIRL FRIEND INTO HERE?
I'M POSITIVE. LET'S GO IN.
I DON'T LIKE THIS. EMPTY WAREHOUSES MAKE ME NERVOUS... AND YOU DON'T SOUND LIKE A KOOK SO MAYBE THERE'S SOMETHING TO YOUR STORY.
YOU'RE NERVOUS! DON'T FORGET WHO HAS THE CANNON IN HIS POCKET!
TRAK!
THOSE TIRE TRACKS LOOK NEW EVEN THOUGH THE REST OF THE PLACE SEEMS AS IF IT HASN'T BEEN TOUCHED IN YEARS.
CAN WE FOLLOW THE TRACKS IN THE RAIN?
WE WON'T HAVE TO... THIS LABEL SAYS BOARSVILLE. I KNOW THAT PLACE... IT'S RUN BY SAMUEL BOAR.
BOAR? ISN'T HE THE MULTI-BILLIONAIRE OIL MAGNATE?
BOAR
THAT'S THE ONE. BOAR IS A MAN OF MYSTERY. NO ONE KNOWS MUCH ABOUT HIM BUT SINCE HE CONTROLS MOST OF THE COUNTRY'S OIL, EVERYONE'S TREATING HIM KINDLY.
THAT MAKES SENSE. WHAT'S THAT AHEAD?


I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE HECK IT IS, BUT IT'S BLOCKING THE ROAD.
GIVE HIM YOUR HORN AND BRIGHTS.
BEEP!

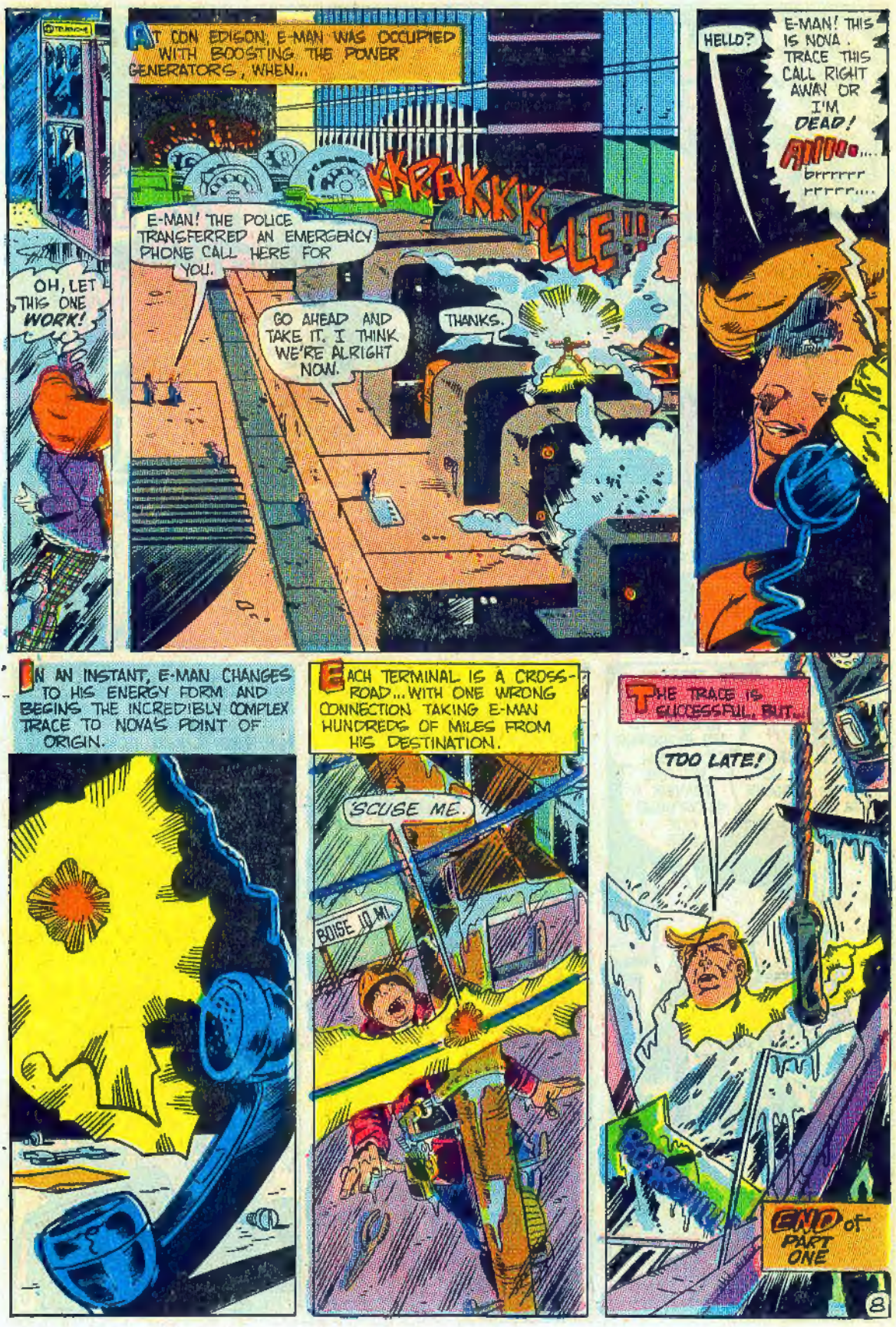

UH-OH, I SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE THAT!!
OH LORDY, IT'S COMING AT US!!
CRUNCH

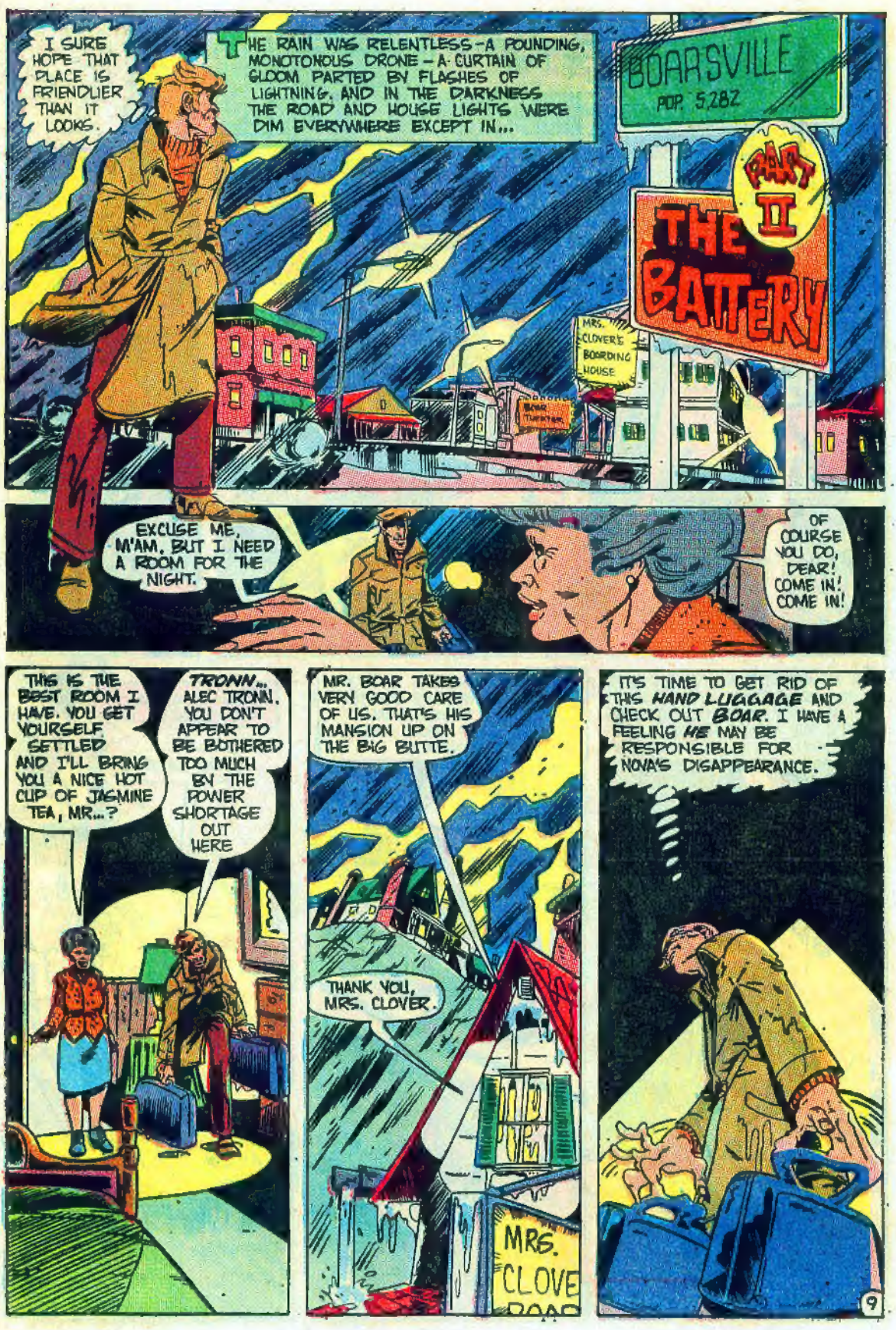
WHAT IS THAT THING?
NEVER MIND NOW! I'LL TRY TO HOLD IT OFF WHILE YOU PHONE FOR HELP! WE PASSED A PHONE BOOTH ON THE ROAD!!!

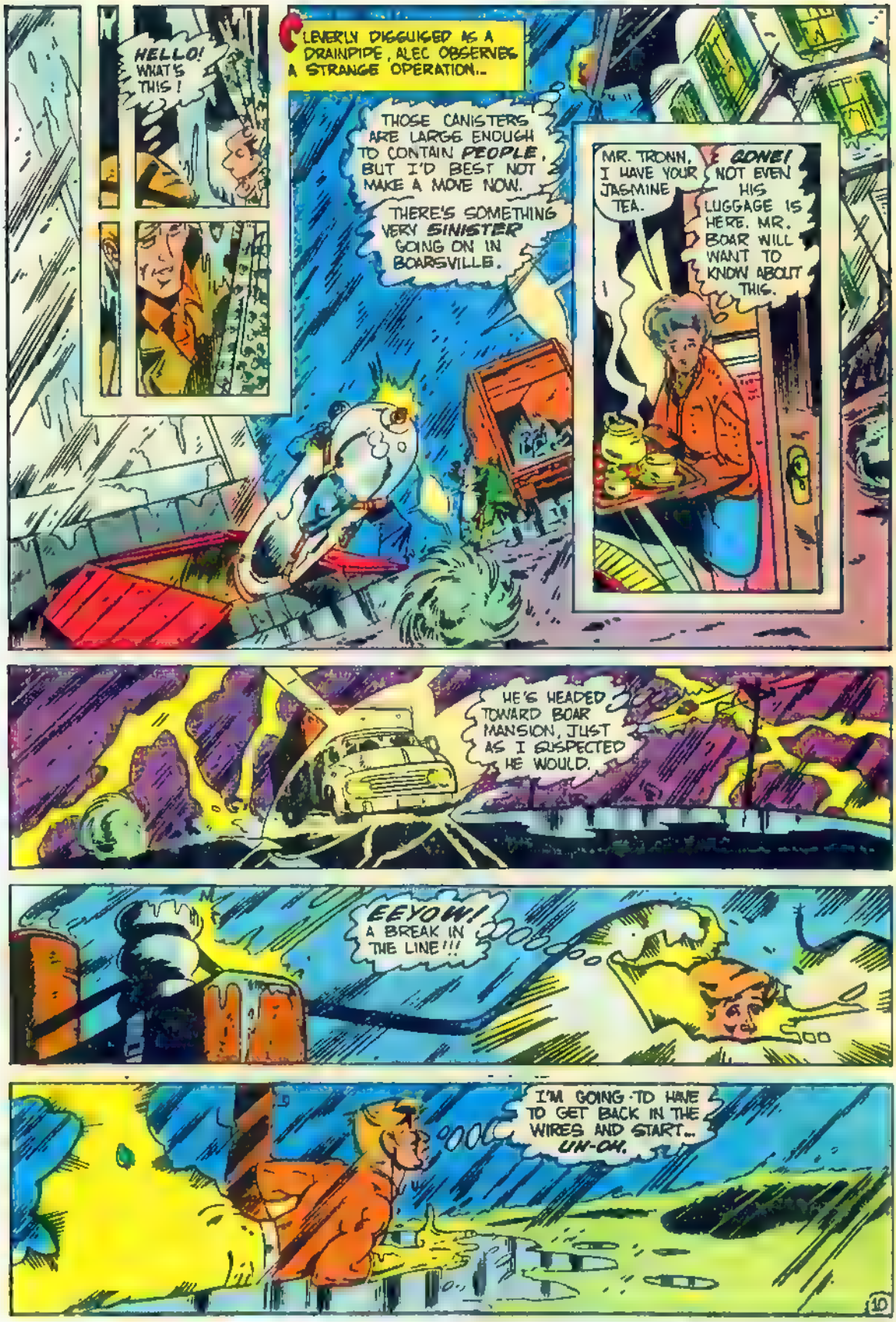
TEN NINE-MILLIMETER BULLETS RIP INTO THE DARKNESS WITH NO APPARENT EFFECT.
BAM BAM BAM BAM


I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO REACH E-MAN IN TIME!
YAAAA!
TEL

OUT OF ORDER
7


OH, LET THIS ONE WORK!
AT CON EDISON, E-MAN WAS OCCUPIED WITH BOOSTING THE POWER GENERATORS, WHEN...
KKRAKKKLLE!!
E-MAN! THE POLICE TRANSFERRED AN EMERGENCY PHONE CALL HERE FOR YOU.
GO AHEAD AND TAKE IT. I THINK WE'RE ALRIGHT NOW.
THANKS.
HELLO?
E-MAN! THIS IS NOVA. TRACE THIS CALL RIGHT AWAY OR I'M DEAD!
AHHHH....
brrrrrr rrrrr....
IN AN INSTANT, E-MAN CHANGES TO HIS ENERGY FORM AND BEGINS THE INCREDIBLY COMPLEX TRACE TO NOVA'S POINT OF ORIGIN.
EACH TERMINAL IS A CROSS-ROAD... WITH ONE WRONG CONNECTION TAKING E-MAN HUNDREDS OF MILES FROM HIS DESTINATION.
SCUSE ME.
BOISE 10 MI
THE TRACE IS SUCCESSFUL, BUT...
TOO LATE!
END of PART ONE
8

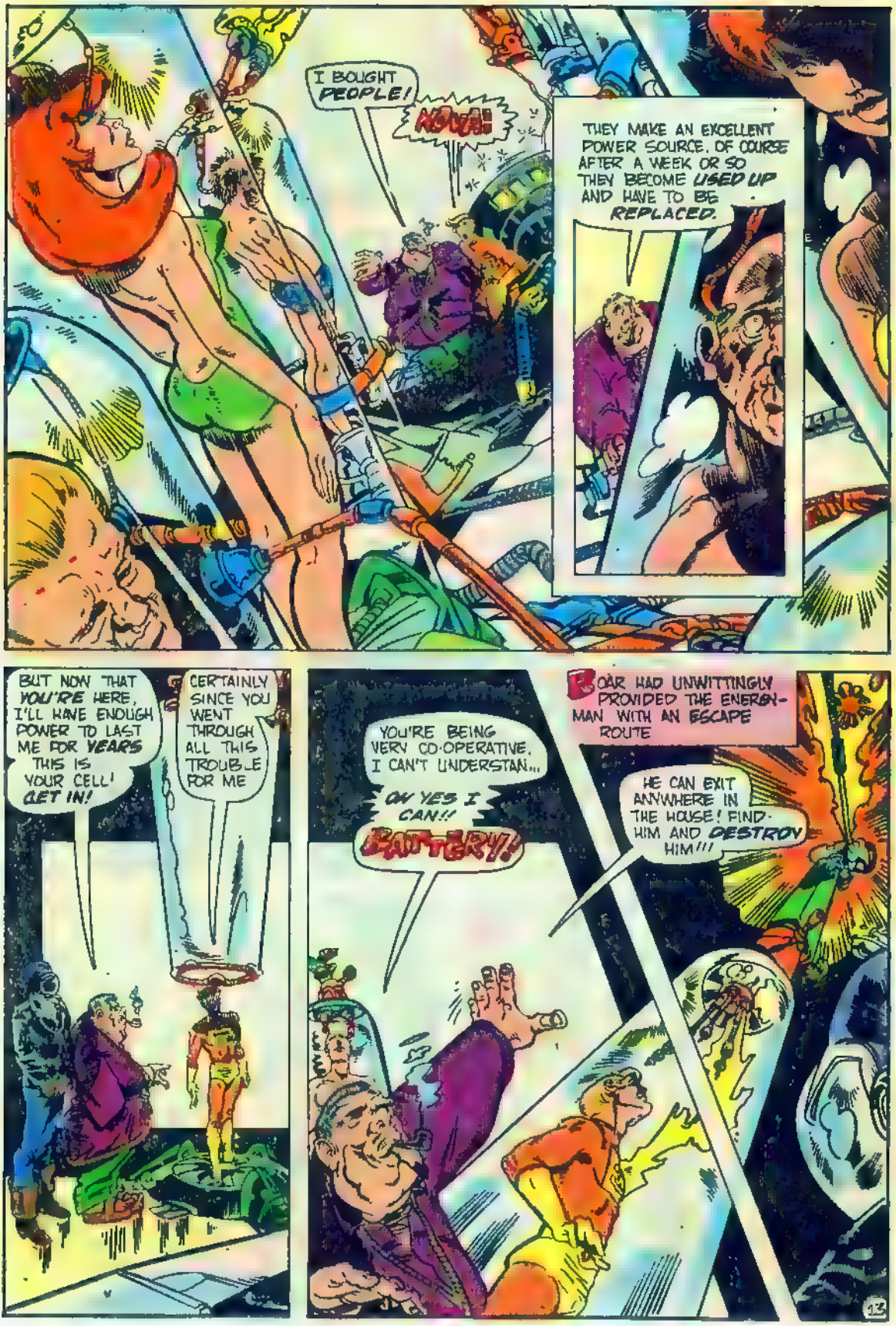

I SURE HOPE THAT PLACE IS FRIENDLIER THAN IT LOOKS.
THE RAIN WAS RELENTLESS—A POUNDING, MONOTONOUS DRONE—A CURTAIN OF GLOOM PARTED BY FLASHES OF LIGHTNING, AND IN THE DARKNESS THE ROAD AND HOUSE LIGHTS WERE DIM EVERYWHERE EXCEPT IN...
BOARSVILLE
POP. 5,282
PART II
THE BATTERY
MRS. CLOVER'S BOARDING HOUSE
EXCUSE ME, M'AM. BUT I NEED A ROOM FOR THE NIGHT.
OF COURSE YOU DO, DEAR! COME IN! COME IN!
THIS IS THE BEST ROOM I HAVE. YOU GET YOURSELF SETTLED AND I'LL BRING YOU A NICE HOT CUP OF JASMINE TEA, MR...?
TRONN... ALEC TRONN. YOU DON'T APPEAR TO BE BOTHERED TOO MUCH BY THE POWER SHORTAGE OUT HERE
MR. BOAR TAKES VERY GOOD CARE OF US. THAT'S HIS MANSION UP ON THE BIG BUTTE.
THANK YOU, MRS. CLOVER.
MRS. CLOVE
IT'S TIME TO GET RID OF THIS HAND LUGGAGE AND CHECK OUT BOAR. I HAVE A FEELING HE MAY BE RESPONSIBLE FOR NOVA'S DISAPPEARANCE.
9

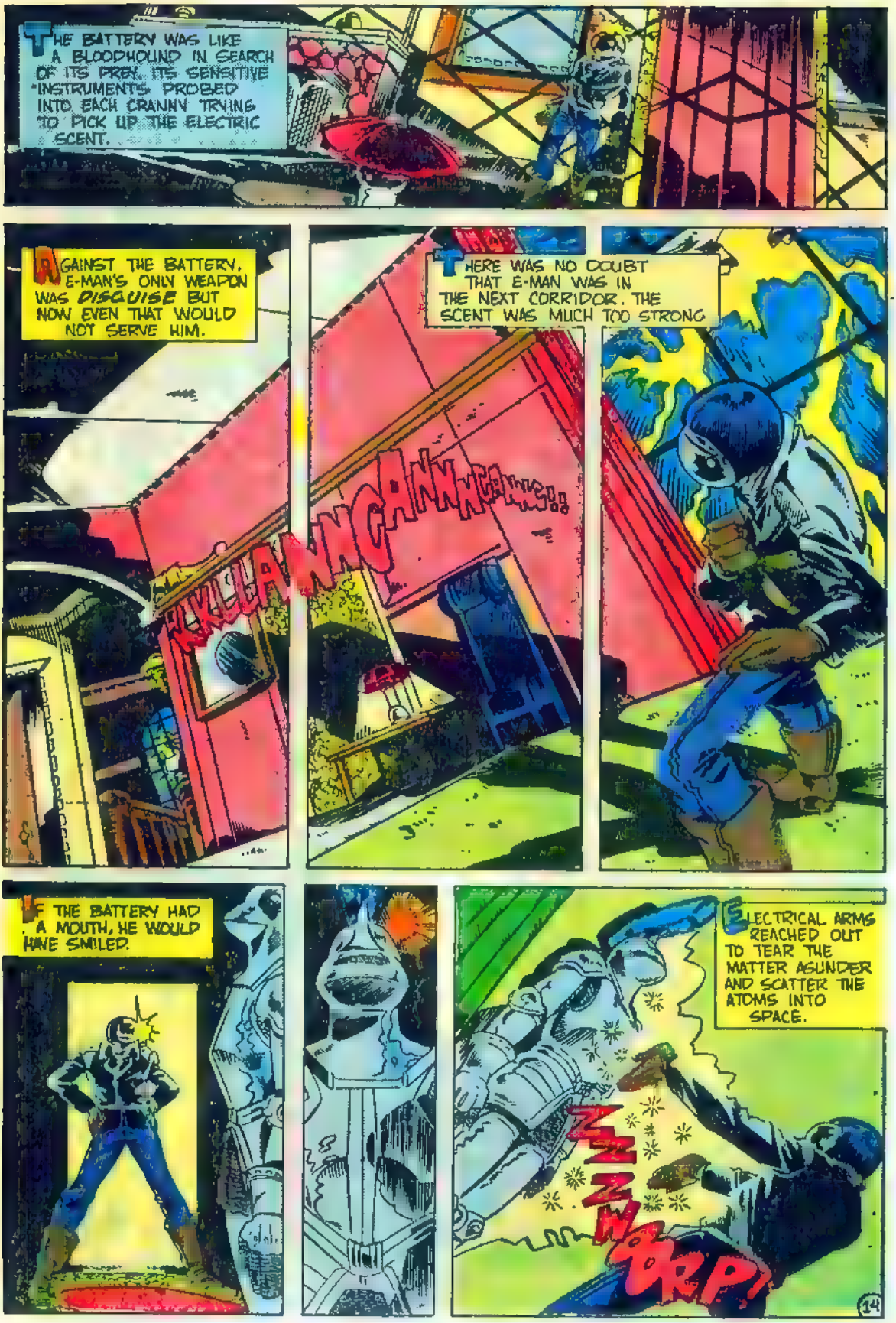

HELLO! WHAT'S THIS!
CLEVERLY DISGUISED AS A DRAINPIPE, ALEC OBSERVES A STRANGE OPERATION..
THOSE CANISTERS ARE LARGE ENOUGH TO CONTAIN PEOPLE, BUT I'D BEST NOT MAKE A MOVE NOW.
THERE'S SOMETHING VERY SINISTER GOING ON IN BOARSVILLE.
MR. TRONN, I HAVE YOUR JASMINE TEA.
GONE! NOT EVEN HIS LUGGAGE IS HERE. MR. BOAR WILL WANT TO KNOW ABOUT THIS.
HE'S HEADED TOWARD BOAR MANSION, JUST AS I SUSPECTED HE WOULD.
EEYOW! A BREAK IN THE LINE!!!
I'M GOING TO HAVE TO GET BACK IN THE WIRES AND START... UH-OH.
10

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

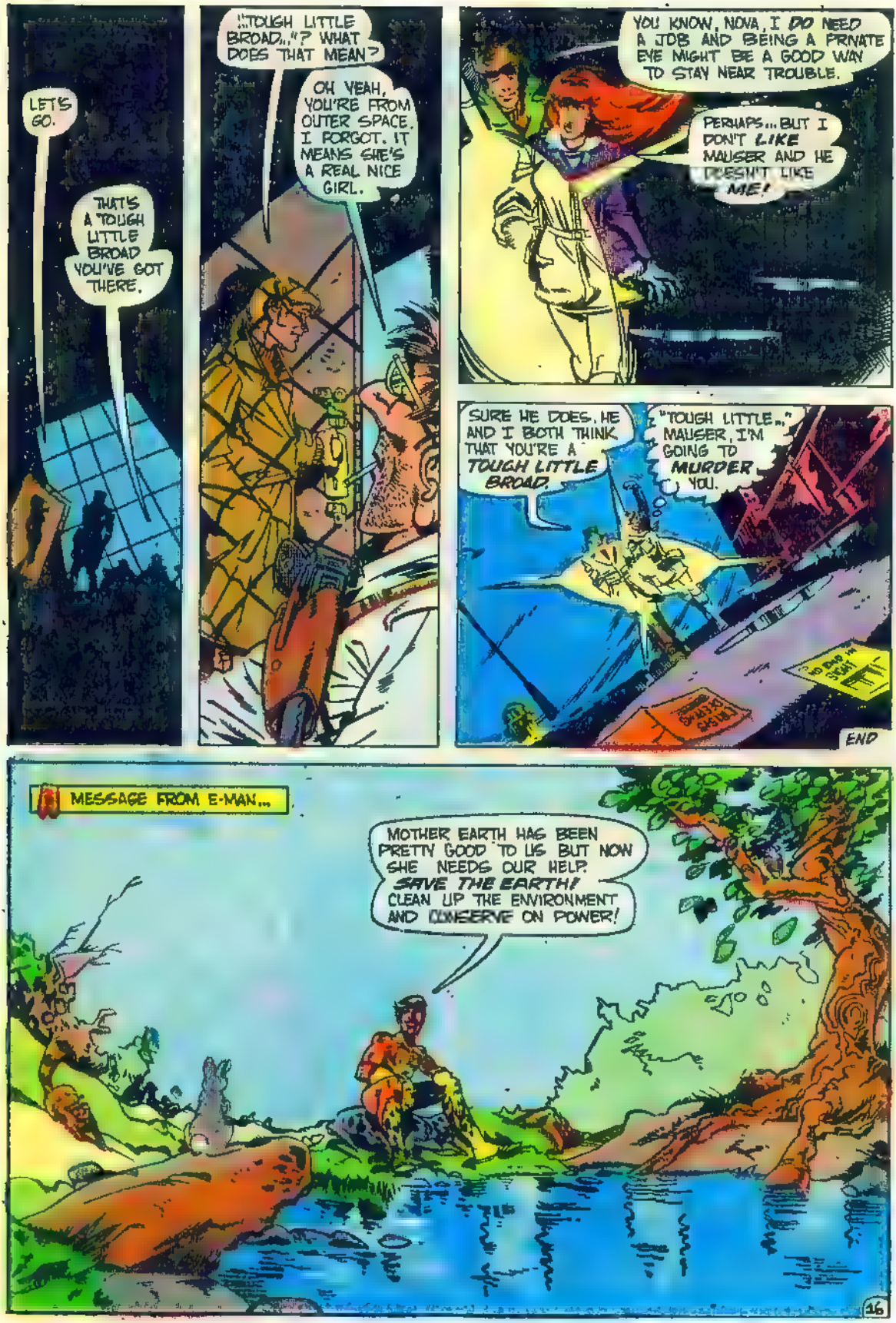
BA-VOOOOM
THAT'S EITHER A GIANT OR A ROBOT. I'LL STUN IT SO I CAN FIND OUT.
ZZZZ-I-T
YUP... GONNA-STUN 'IM...
HEY! IT'S DRAWING ME IN!
QWOOOR!
THIS THING IS A WALKING BATTERY! IT ABSORBS ENERGY. IT EVEN BREAKS MATTER DOWN INTO ENERGY BEFORE ABSORBING IT I'LL BET THIS IS WHAT HAPPENED TO NOVA.
IT'S LIKE A PRISON I CAN'T GET OUT!
VVRRRROOOM!!!!
11

BOAR MANSION! NOW I'LL FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON
INSIDE THE MAIN HALL, E-MAN IS RELEASED FROM THE BATTERY.
WELCOME, E-MAN, I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU. DON'T TRY TO ESCAPE OR THE BATTERY WILL ABSORB YOU.
SO YOU'RE SAMUEL BOAR!
I AM BOAR, THE RICHEST, MOST POWERFUL MAN IN THE WORLD.. AND IN THESE TIMES POWER MEANS MORE THAN MONEY
WHERE IS NOVA KANE... THE RED-HAIRED GIRL YOUR ROBOT KIDNAPPED FROM A PHONE BOOTH?
AH, SO SHE MEANS SOMETHING SPECIAL TO YOU.
FOLLOW ME TO THE ELEVATOR AND I'LL BRING YOU TO HER.
THE ENTIRE WORLD HAS HAD ITS ENERGY RATIONED, BUT YOU SEEM TO HAVE ALL YOU NEED.
YOU SEE, E-MAN, I'VE BEEN BUYING AND SELLING THINGS AND PEOPLE NEARLY ALL MY LIFE SO WHEN THE POWER CRISIS HIT I JUST DID WHAT I'VE ALWAYS DONE.
WHRRRRD
12


I BOUGHT PEOPLE!
AGGH!
THEY MAKE AN EXCELLENT POWER SOURCE. OF COURSE AFTER A WEEK OR SO THEY BECOME USED UP AND HAVE TO BE REPLACED.
BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE HERE, I'LL HAVE ENOUGH POWER TO LAST ME FOR YEARS
THIS IS YOUR CELL! GET IN!
CERTAINLY SINCE YOU WENT THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE FOR ME
BOAR HAD UNWITTINGLY PROVIDED THE ENERGY-MAN WITH AN ESCAPE ROUTE
YOU'RE BEING VERY CO-OPERATIVE. I CAN'T UNDERSTAN...
OH YES I CAN!!
BATTERY!
HE CAN EXIT ANYWHERE IN THE HOUSE! FIND HIM AND DESTROY HIM!!!
13


THE BATTERY WAS LIKE A BLOODHOUND IN SEARCH OF ITS PREY. ITS SENSITIVE INSTRUMENTS PROBED INTO EACH CRANNY TRYING TO PICK UP THE ELECTRIC SCENT.
AGAINST THE BATTERY, E-MAN'S ONLY WEAPON WAS DISGUISE BUT NOW EVEN THAT WOULD NOT SERVE HIM.
THERE WAS NO DOUBT THAT E-MAN WAS IN THE NEXT CORRIDOR. THE SCENT WAS MUCH TOO STRONG
IF THE BATTERY HAD A MOUTH, HE WOULD HAVE SMILED.
ELECTRICAL ARMS REACHED OUT TO TEAR THE MATTER ASUNDER AND SCATTER THE ATOMS INTO SPACE.
ZZZWOORP!
14

BUT THE RUG GRINS, MOVES, AND THE TRAP IS SPRUNG ON THE HUNTER INSTEAD OF THE PREY!
KRASH!
DID YOU GET H...
IT'S OVER, BOAR! YOUR BODYGUARD IS WRECKED AND SO ARE YOUR PLANS!
YOU'RE UNDER ARREST!
KLIK
BOAR'S EMPIRE WAS SLOWLY DISMANTLED BY THE GOVERNMENT AND ITS HOARD OF FUEL WAS DISTRIBUTED AMONG THE PEOPLE. AFTER A SHORT STAY AT HOSPITALS THE VICTIMS WERE RELEASED... INCLUDING ROSIB RHEDD, NOVA KANE, AND MIKE MALISER.
HERE'S YOUR MONEY, MR MALISER.
THANKS, NOVA! SAY, TRONN, HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A JOB AS A PRIVATE EYE?
NOT A CHANCE! HE'S A BIG LOVABLE GUY AND I WANT HIM TO STAY THAT WAY... NOT BECOME CORRUPTED BY A CYNICAL CREEP LIKE YOU!
OKAY, LADY, OKAY! IT WAS JUST AN IDEA.


LET'S GO.
THAT'S A TOUGH LITTLE BROAD YOU'VE GOT THERE.
"TOUGH LITTLE BROAD..."? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
OH YEAH, YOU'RE FROM OUTER SPACE. I FORGOT. IT MEANS SHE'S A REAL NICE GIRL.
YOU KNOW, NOVA, I DO NEED A JOB AND BEING A PRIVATE EYE MIGHT BE A GOOD WAY TO STAY NEAR TROUBLE.
PERHAPS... BUT I DON'T LIKE MAUSER AND HE DOESN'T LIKE ME!
SURE HE DOES. HE AND I BOTH THINK THAT YOU'RE A TOUGH LITTLE BROAD.
"TOUGH LITTLE..." MAUSER, I'M GOING TO MURDER YOU.
END
MESSAGE FROM E-MAN...
MOTHER EARTH HAS BEEN PRETTY GOOD TO US BUT NOW SHE NEEDS OUR HELP. SAVE THE EARTH! CLEAN UP THE ENVIRONMENT AND CONSERVE ON POWER!

I AM CALLED TRAVIS. TO BEGIN MY TALE WITH THE DATE AND PLACE OF MY BIRTH WOULD BE MEANINGLESS SINCE I AM A TIME WANDERER. MY PARENTS AND I TRAVELED BACK AND FORTH ALONG TIME'S CORRIDORS SO OFTEN THAT TERMS SUCH AS PAST AND FUTURE MEANT NOTHING TO US...
I SHALL BEGIN MY STORY WITH THE LAST TIME I SAW MY MOTHER AND FATHER FOR THAT DAY BEGAN A NEW CHAPTER IN MY LIFE...

TRAVIS in the DRAGON KILLER!

SON, YOUR MOTHER AND I HAVE TO GO AWAY FOR A WHILE. STAY WITH ANACHRON ...HE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU!...

ALL RIGHT, DADDY...

GOOD LUCK TO YOU. I KNOW HOW IMPORTANT YOUR MISSION IS.

EDITOR ... GEORGE WILDMAN
WRITER ... NICOLA CUTI

art by

I WAS AN OBEDIENT CHILD SO I DID WHAT MY FATHER TOLD ME...

I WAITED FOR SIX DAYS... ANACHRON TRIED TO COMFORT ME. BUT I WAS FRIGHTENED...

CHESS?

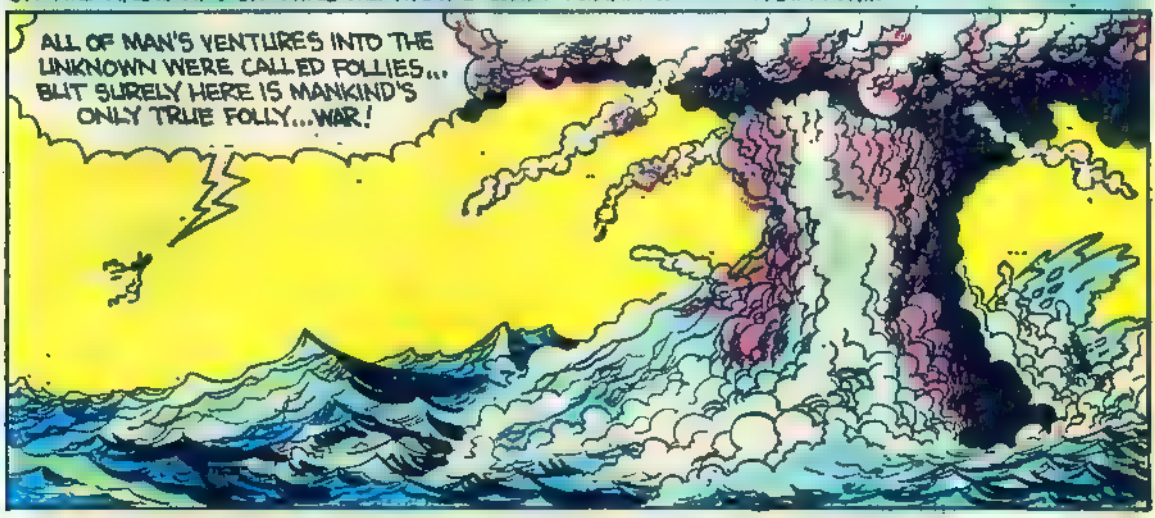
NO!

AFTER A LONG WHILE MY FEARS CEASED. ANACHRON HAD KNOWN SINCE THE FIRST DAY THAT THEY WERE NEVER COMING BACK.

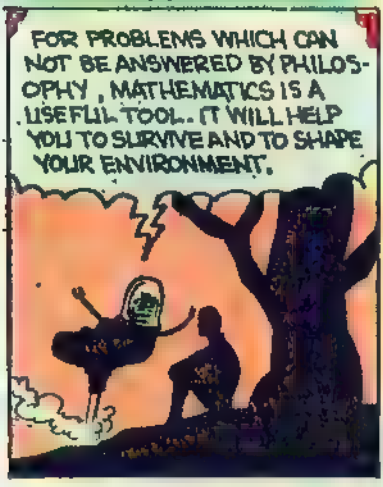
THERE IS NO USE IN WAITING.

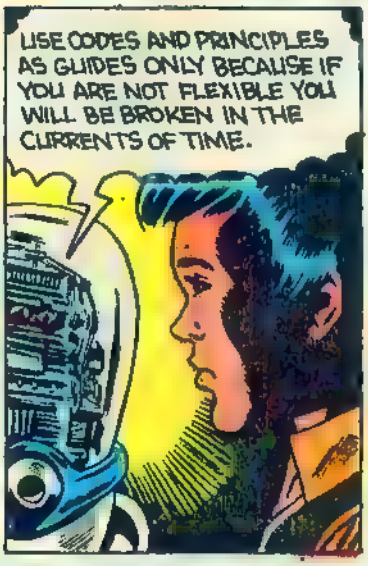
I AGREE!

ANACHRON BECAME MY FAMILY. HE WAS ALSO A WISE AND PATIENT TEACHER...TELLING ME WHAT I SHOULD KNOW AND SHOWING ME WHAT I COULD LEARN IN NO OTHER WAY...



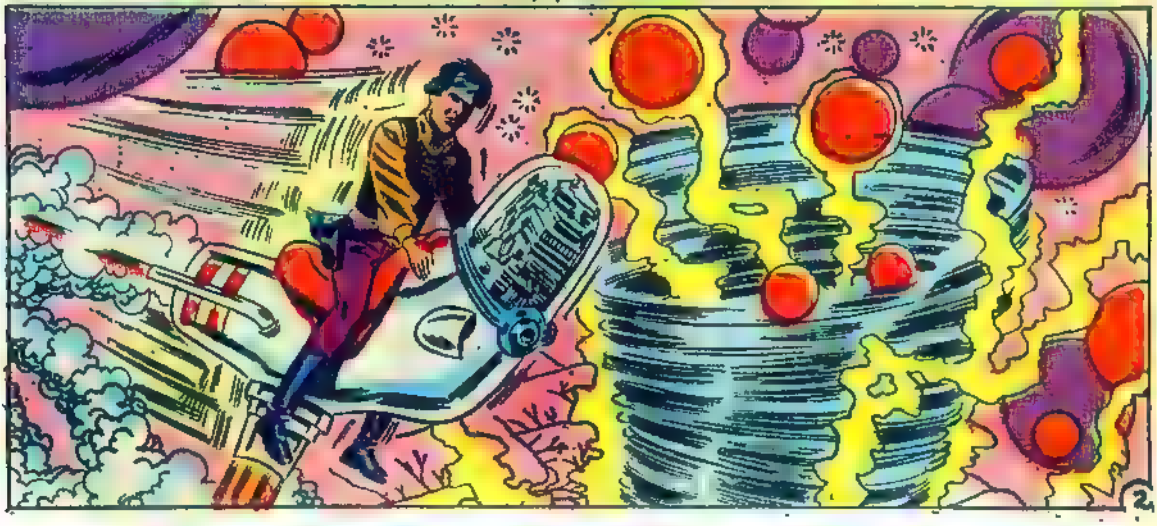
I WAS SKILLED NOT ONLY IN THE HUMANITIES, BUT ALSO IN THE SCIENCES...

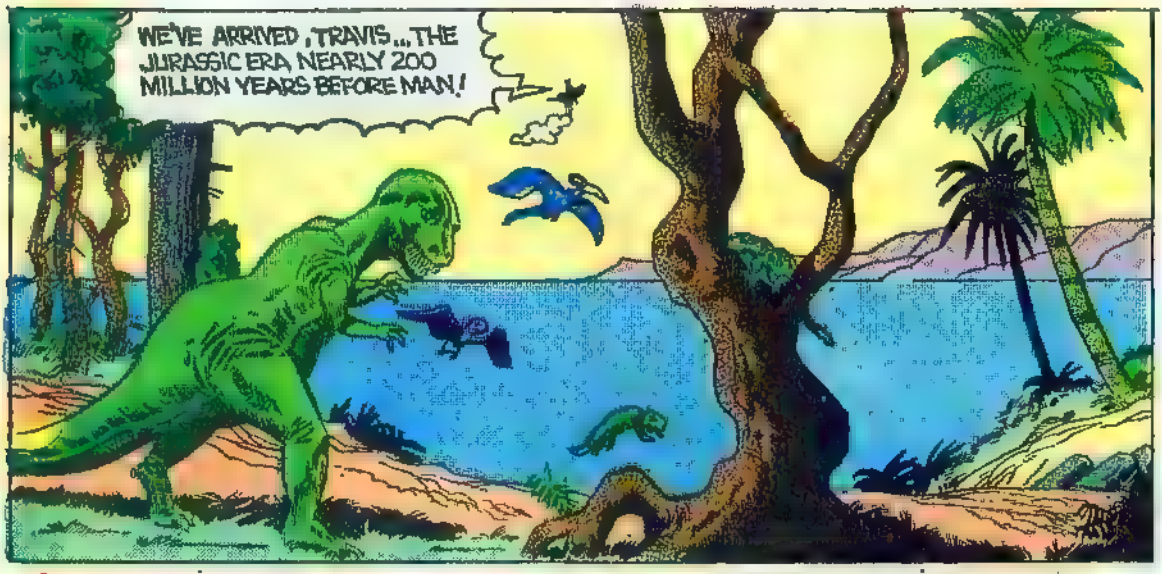

FOR PROBLEMS WHICH CAN NOT BE ANSWERED BY PHILOSOPHY, MATHEMATICS IS A USEFUL TOOL. IT WILL HELP YOU TO SURVIVE AND TO SHAPE YOUR ENVIRONMENT.



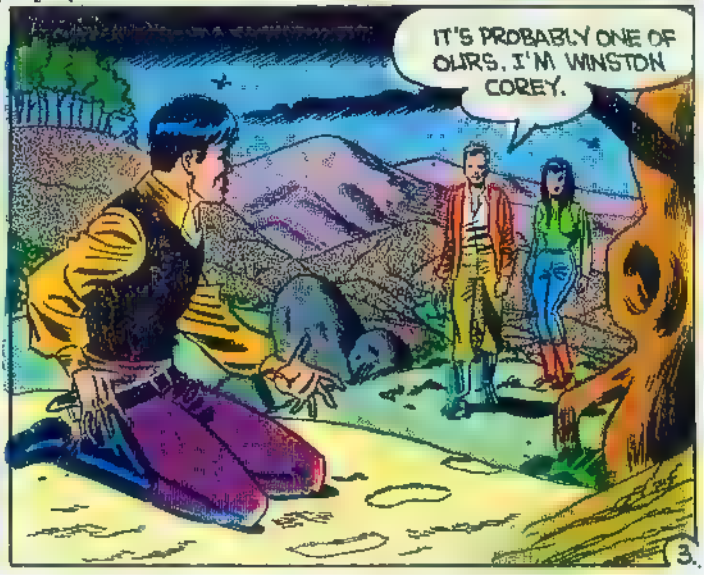
THEN ONE DAY ANACHRON GAVE ME TO MYSELF AND I BECAME HIS MASTER.

I WISHED TO START MY ODYSSEY AT THE BEGINNING...IN AN ERA BEFORE MAN WALKED THE EARTH. THE TRIP THROUGH TIME, AS ALWAYS, WAS EXHILARATING!



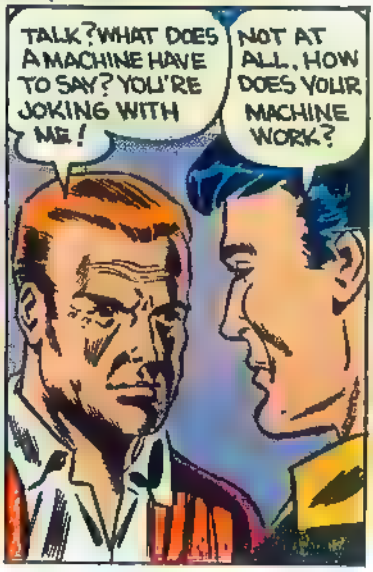


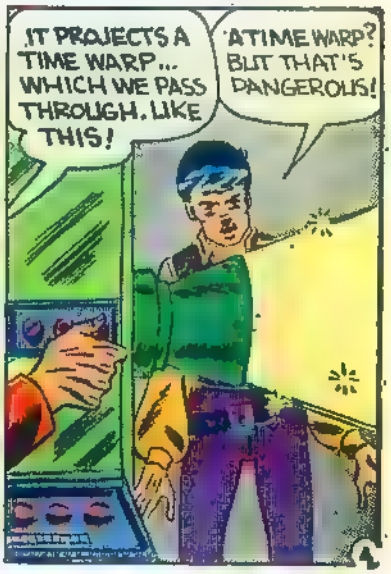
THE AIR WAS HEAVY... WARM AND TROPICAL. THE EARTH WAS STILL COOLING...

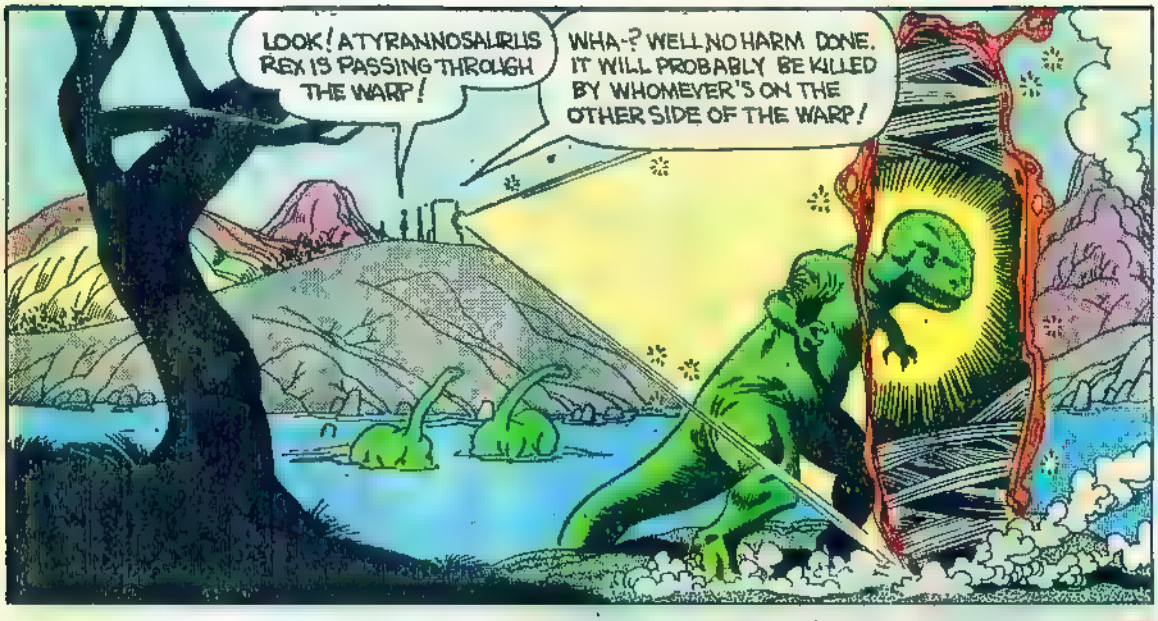


THE LAST THING I HAD EXPECTED TO FIND THERE WERE FELLOW TIME TRAVELERS...

OF COURSE THEY WERE CURIOUS ABOUT ME AND I ENJOYED BEING A BIT MYSTERIOUS...






LOOK! A TYRANNOSAURUS REX IS PASSING THROUGH THE WARP!
WHA-? WELL, NO HARM DONE. IT WILL PROBABLY BE KILLED BY WHOMEVER'S ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WARP!

AT THE COST OF HOW MANY LIVES, YOU BUNGLER!
COMM-RAD I TO COMM-RAD II. COME HERE. I NEED YOU!
DON'T TALK TO MY FATHER THAT WAY! IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!

I'LL TURN OFF THE WARP RIGHT NOW.
DON'T, IDIOT! I HAVE TO GO AFTER THAT THING! HERE COMES ANACHROM!

WHEN WE'RE THROUGH THE WARP, TURN IT OFF!
A TIME WARP! THAT'S RATHER PRIMITIVE!
IT DOES TALK!

STRANGE LAD...
YES...AND VERY RUDE!!

I WONDER WHAT TIME IT IS..?
NEVER MIND THAT. WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE BEAST.
OVER THERE! A KNIGHT!
THAT PUTS US SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE AGES WHEN KNIGHT-HOOD WAS IN FLOWER.
HE'S DEAD... AND THE KILLER'S TRAIL LEAD THAT WAY!.
TAKE HIS LANCE AND SOME OF HIS ARMOR. YOUR PARALYZER WORKS ON THE NERVE SYSTEM. BUT THE DINOSAUR IS TOO LARGE TO BE AFFECTED BY YOUR PISTOL..
THIS STUFF IS HEAVY...I CAN HARDLY MOVE.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO SLAY A DRAGON, YOU HAD BEST PROTECT YOURSELF.
THERE IT IS!
GROWRR!
EEEEEEEEEK!
6

CONTINUED AFTER FOLLOWING PAGE

GET YOUR LANCE UP!
I CAN'T. IT'S TOO HEAVY!
OH!
WAP
GROWR!
THE GUN. AIM FOR ITS EYES. BLIND IT.
GOT IT!
GET THE LANCE!
OH GEEZ! IT'S CHARGING ME!

AARRG!
CRASH!
MY FIRST DRAGON. I WONDER IF IT WAS MAN WHO KILLED OFF THE DINOSAURS.
GOOD SIR, YOU HAVE SAVED MY LIFE! I AM IN YOUR DEBT AS IS MY FATHER. HE'S THE KING, YOU KNOW.
IS HE NOW? CLIMB ABOARD MY MOUNT AND I'LL TAKE YOU TO HIM.
WHAT A STRANGE MOUNT! CERTAINLY YOU ARE A WIZARD!
MY FATHER'S CASTLE LIES AHEAD... BUT THERE'S NO NEED FOR UNDUE HASTE!
WELL, I GUESS EVERYTHING WORKED OUT OKAY... BUT WHAT ABOUT NEXT TIME..?
END.

Dear Mr. Wildman:

I saw notice of the publication of E-Man in the August '73 issue of WONDERWORLD (formerly GRAPHIC STORY WORLD), and thereafter began searching Baltimore comic displays for weeks with an enthusiasm I haven't had since Jack Kirby's NEW GODS was dropped by National last year. I've been admiring Joe Staton's illustrations in AMAZING and FANTASTIC for some time now. His inking has a smooth, sculptural quality that is very stunning. His recent cover painting for the September '73 issue of FANTASTIC was an unusually effective production.

The first "E-Man" strip was very impressive. The strip's strongest point was the convincing characterization - both verbally and visually - of E-Man and Nova Kane. Although the idea of an action character with energy powers is not new -- I well remember Gold Key's "Doctor Solar: Man of the Atom" and Charlton's own "Captain Atom" by Steve Ditko - the handling of E-Man is quite delightfully original. He is not a man who can change into energy, but rather an energy being that can assume the form of a man.

Moreover, E-Man is not a crusading scientist like Adam (Atom) and Solar, but an innocent abroad. I am reminded of Heinlein's Michael Valentine Smith in STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND. The combination of E-Man's energy and shape-changing powers was handled very well. There is something very familiar about E-Man's Plastic Man style visual gags.

Nova Kane's dual background as a University student and an exotic dancer ought to provide plenty of varied visual settings for future stories. The handling of Nova Kane in the first issue was remarkable sophisticated. This may have been partly because the writer, Nicola Cuti, is a woman, and partly because of the maturity of Joe Staton's graphic storytelling technique. The focus of the story was - quite properly - on E-Man's relationship with Nova, rather than on the science fiction and action elements of the story. I hope that this focus on human relationships will continue in future strips.

My subscription order for E-Man is already in the mail.

Good luck with this excellent, innovative, new comic magazine.

Respectfully,
Robert Medcalf, Jr..
Baltimore, Maryland

Bob, Nick wanted me to inform you that he is a guy not a gal. The origin of his name is Italian and in Italy, Nicola is a common man's name but in America he understands how the error could easily be made. — Editor

Dear Mr. Wildman:

Welcome E-MAN! He's cute, clever, well-written, well-drawn, charming, super, and a very fine new comic character! I couldn't wait for my subscription, so I grabbed #1 from the newsstand for a delightful reading experience. I guess Nova Kane is in the strip to "knock out" your male readers, but I found E-MAN electrifying! and funny! "Hey! I meant the car ... not the battery.", the scattered Charlton Comics all over, E-MAN as a cat!? Great! I am eagerly looking forward to more issues of this enjoyable strip as well as ... C. H. E. S. S.!

Thank you,
Mercy Van Vlack
Norristown, Pa.

Mr. Wildman:

After waiting through all of July, and the first of August, I finally saw the first edition of *E-MAN*. It was much, much more than I expected. After you dropped your excellent super-hero line of '66-'67, I figured that was it for Charlton. Even though I read your horror titles, Charlton was not much. I thought you had your chance at a really competitive company, and you blew it. So I've waited for five years and here we go again. "Charlton re-enters the super-hero field", and now I find you've done a bang-up job.

The first step toward success was Jo Staton's Art, Beautiful, absolutely beautiful. His wild chicks and sci-fi really made the tale stand out. Ditto for Cuti's scripting. This makes your finest team. Next, your cover: really Charlton's best effort. Ever. The new C. P. Co. Emblem, and a better coloring job should really help out on sales. It was also free of the clutter which plagued your other super-hero books. Congratulations are in order for whoever colored the interior also, a real improvement. Artist / writer credits are a nice addition, also. (Even though small).

Your idea of back up features to introduce new character, is very worthwhile. I enjoyed "the Knight" in the first issue. All of these items considered, plus the fact that the first issue was displayed next to *Superman*, you should have a winner. *Now let's see a letter column.* The only title I could come up with was "E-Ruptions", which is not too good I'll admit, but it will start you thinking. Maybe this should be your first letter printed. Now if *Blue Beetle* would return ...

Brian Patton
Kingsport, Tenn.

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